

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice, and substitute therefor the following new claims 17-32:

Listing of claims

17. (New) A method of operating yarn feeders for feeding yarns to a textile machine, comprising:

in a trial phase, operating the yarn feeders in a tension-regulated mode;
detecting yarn feeding parameters of the yarn feeders operated in the tension-regulated mode, the determined yarn feeding parameters being of a type selected from yarn speed and yarn quantity fed;
determining, from the detected yarn feeding parameters detected during the trial phase, an operational yarn feeding parameter of said selected type; and
in an operating phase, operating the yarn feeders according to the operational yarn feeding parameter.

18. (New) A method as in claim 17, wherein the step of operating in the trial phase operates the yarn feeders in accordance with matching set-point tensions.

19. (New) A method as in claim 17, wherein the step of detecting includes generating signals indicative of the detected yarn feeding parameters and delivering the signals over a signal line to a central control unit.

20. (New) A method as in claim 19, wherein the signals are digital signals.

21. (New) A method as in claim 17, wherein the yarn feeders includes a group of yarn feeders, and wherein the step of determining determines the operational yarn feeding parameter based on the detected yarn feeding parameters of all of the yarn feeders in said group.

22. (New) A method as in claim 17, wherein the textile machine is a loop-forming machine, and wherein the operational yarn feeding parameter is set in proportion to a machine speed of the loop-forming machine.

23. (New) A method as in claim 17, wherein the step of determining calculates the operational yarn feeding parameter as an average of a plurality of the detected yarn feeding parameters.

24. (New) A method as in claim 23, wherein the step of determining includes weighting the plurality of detected yarn speeds or yarn quantities to from said average.

25. (New) A method as in claim 17, further including generating an error signal if in the trial phase the detected yarn feeding parameters differ by more than a specified limit.

26. (New) A method as in claim 17, further including detecting yarn tensions of the yarn feeders during the operating phase, and generating an error signal if the detected yarn tensions differ by more than a specified limit.

27. (New) A method as in claim 17, wherein the operational yarn feeding parameter is sent as a control signal from a central control to the yarn feeders and stored in memories of the yarn feeders.

28. (New) A method as in claim 27, wherein the control signal is a digital signal.

29. (New) A yarn feeding system for feeding a plurality of yarns to a textile machine, comprising:

a plurality of yarn feeders that form an operational group, each of selected yarn feeders in the operational group having a yarn tension sensor, a drive motor with a yarn feed wheel, a yarn tension regulator, and a yarn speed regulator; and

a central control connected to the yarn feeders for communicating with the yarn feeders, the central control being configured to receive, during a trial phase, first signals indicative of detected yarn feeding parameters of a type selected from yarn speed and yarn quantity, and sending a control signal to the yarn feeders indicating an operational yarn feeding parameter of said selected type for controlling operations of the yarn feeders during an operating phase.

30. (New) A yarn feeding system as in claim 29, wherein the yarn tension regulator and yarn speed regulator of each selected yarn feeder are alternatively activatable via a switching device.

31. (New) A yarn feeding system as in claim 29, wherein the central control includes an arithmetic unit for determining the operational yarn feeding parameter from the detected yarn feeding parameters detected in the trial phase.

32. (New) A yarn feeding system as in claim 29, wherein the textile machine is a loop-forming machine, and wherein the central control includes an input for receiving a signal indicative of an operating speed of the loop-forming machine.